

**COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (currently amended) A digital data processing apparatus comprising:  
a storage section that stores original digital data representative of digital contents;  
a reading section that reads out the original digital data from the storage section; ~~and~~  
a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate  
deteriorated digital data; and  
a control section that stores back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new  
original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in  
the storage section.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1,  
further comprising an input section that inputs a reproduction command to activate the reading  
section, the generating section, and the control section;

and a reproduction section that processes the ~~deteriorated~~ new original digital data for  
reproducing the new original digital data ~~digital contents, and a control section that stores back the~~  
~~deteriorated digital data into the storage section such that the reading section operates when a next~~  
~~reproduction command is inputted for reading out the deteriorated digital data from the storage~~  
~~section as new original digital data.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an input section that inputs a reproduction command to activate the reading section, and a reproduction section that processes the original digital data read out from the storage section for reproducing the original digital data, wherein the generating section deteriorates the quality of the reproduced original digital data ~~digital contents, and a control section that stores back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section such that the reading section operates when a next reproduction command is inputted for reading out the deteriorated digital data from the storage section as new original digital data.~~

Claim 4 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a downloading section that downloads the original digital data from an external database into the storage section.

Claim 5 (currently amended) ~~The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~  
~~further comprising~~

A digital data processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores original digital data representative of digital contents;

a reading section that reads out the original digital data from the storage section;

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate  
deteriorated digital data;

a first control section that controls the generating section to sequentially generate the  
deteriorated digital data while the reading section reads out the original digital data from the storage  
section and that sequentially stores back the deteriorated digital data to the storage section, ~~and~~ and

a second control section that operates when reading of the original digital data is suspended  
for controlling the storage section to reserve a remaining part of the original digital data as it is  
without deterioration.

Claim 6 (currently amended) ~~The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1,~~

A digital data processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores original digital data representative of digital contents;

a reading section that reads out the original digital data from the storage section; and

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data

wherein the storage section stores the original digital data in the form of original MIDI data having a velocity value and a volume value to represent digital music contents, and the generating section alters at least one of the velocity value and the volume value of the original MIDI data at a random timing to randomly deteriorate the original MIDI data.

Claim 7 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storage section stores the original digital data representative of digital audio and video contents, and the generating section alters the original digital data by noise data at a random timing to thereby randomly deteriorate the original digital data.

Claim 8 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generating section sequentially alters the original digital data at a constant timing so as to deteriorate the original digital data.

Claim 9 (currently amended) A digital data processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores original digital data representative of digital contents;

an input section that inputs a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;

a reading section that operates in response to the copy command for reading out the original digital data from the storage section; ~~and~~

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as the copy of the original digital data; and

a control section that stores back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 10 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a downloading section that downloads the original digital data from an external database into the storage section.

Claim 11 (currently amended) ~~The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 9,~~

A digital data processing apparatus comprising:

a storage section that stores original digital data representative of digital contents;

an input section that inputs a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;

a reading section that operates in response to the copy command for reading out the original digital data from the storage sections;

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as the copy of the original digital data; and

wherein the storage section stores the original digital data in the form of original MIDI data having a velocity value and a volume value to represent digital music contents, and the generating section alters at least one of the velocity value and the volume value of the original MIDI data at a random timing to randomly deteriorate the original MIDI data.

Claim 12 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the storage section stores the original digital data representative of digital audio and video contents, and the generating section alters the original digital data by noise data at a random timing to thereby randomly deteriorate the original digital data.

Claim 13 (original) The digital data processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the generating section sequentially alters the original digital data at a constant timing so as to deteriorate the original digital data.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A digital data processing system comprising a server computer and a reproducing apparatus for reproducing original digital data representative of digital contents provided from the server computer, wherein

the server computer comprises a database for use in downloading the original digital data to the reproducing apparatus, and wherein

the reproducing apparatus comprises:

a storage section that stores the original digital data downloaded from the server computer;

an input section that inputs a reproduction command;

a reading section responsive to the reproduction command for reading out the original digital data from the storage section;

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data; and

a reproduction section that reproduces the digital contents according to the read original digital data before or after the same is deteriorated; and

a control section that stores back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A digital data processing system comprising a server computer and a recording apparatus for making a copy of original digital data representative of digital contents provided from the server computer, wherein

the server computer comprises a database for use in downloading the original digital data to the recording apparatus, and wherein

the recording apparatus comprises:

a storage section that stores the original digital data downloaded from the server computer;

an input section that inputs a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;

a reading section that operates in response to the copy command for reading out the original digital data from the storage section; and

a generating section that deteriorates a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as the copy of the original digital data; and

a control section that stores back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.



Claim 16 (currently amended) A method of processing digital data comprising the steps of:  
storing original digital data representative of digital contents in a storage device;  
reading out the original digital data from the storage device; ~~and~~  
deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data;  
and  
storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data  
so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method of processing digital data comprising the steps of:  
storing original digital data representative of digital contents in a storage device;  
inputting a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;  
reading out the original digital data from the storage device in response to the copy  
command; ~~and~~  
deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as  
the copy of the original digital data; and  
storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data  
so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 18 (currently amended) A method of reproducing original digital data representative of digital contents provided from a server computer, comprising the steps of:

downloading the original digital data from a database of the server computer;

storing the original digital data downloaded from the server computer into a storage device;

inputting a reproduction command;

reading out the original digital data from the storage device in response to the reproduction command;

deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data;

and

reproducing the digital contents according to the read original digital data before or after the same is deteriorated; and

storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A method of recording original digital data representative of digital contents provided from a server computer, comprising the steps of:

downloading the original digital data from a database of the server computer;  
storing the original digital data downloaded from the server computer into a storage device;  
inputting a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;  
reading out the original digital data from the storage device in response to the copy command; ~~and~~

deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as the copy of the original digital data; and

storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 20 (currently amended) A machine readable medium for use in a digital data processing apparatus having a processor for processing digital data representing digital contents, the machine readable medium containing program instructions executable by the processor for causing the digital data processing apparatus to perform a method comprising the steps of:

accessing to a storage device storing original digital data representative of digital contents;  
reading out the original digital data from the storage device; ~~and~~  
deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data; and

storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.

Claim 21 (currently amended) A machine readable medium for use in a digital data processing apparatus having a processor for recording digital data representing digital contents into a record medium, the machine readable medium containing program instructions executable by the processor for causing the digital data processing apparatus to perform a method comprising the steps of;

accessing to a storage device storing original digital data representative of digital contents;  
inputting a copy command for making a copy of the original digital data in a record medium;  
reading out the original digital data from the storage device in response to the copy command; and

deteriorating a quality of the read original digital data to generate deteriorated digital data as the copy of the original digital data; and

storing back the deteriorated digital data into the storage section as new original digital data so that the original digital data is overwritten by the new original digital data in the storage section.